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## Introduction

The Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) is one of the sworn enemies of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. It was set up at the First Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists held in Vienna in February and March 1929. Its predecessor, and the organization on whose basis it was formed, was the Ukrainian Military Organisation (UMO), an outright counter-revolutionary and revenge-seeking body composed of officers and men from various armed units driven out of the Ukraine. They tried to restore their undemocratic rule there with the aid of the governments of Poland, Germany, France and other capitalist countries and all kinds of interventionists. The influence of the Ukrainian Military Organisation in the OUN was such that the group for a long time was known as the UMO-OUN.

The Vienna Congress was preceded by the First Conference of Ukrainian Nationalists in Berlin in 1927 and the Second Conference in Prague in 1928. So the OUN was set up outside Soviet Ukraine and is doomed to remain an external organisation hostile to Soviet government and the Ukrainian people.

Since its very first days the OUN has been providing spies, saboteurs, terrorists and agents provocateurs to intelligence services of all the imperialist powers engaged in activities hostile to the Soviet Union. The OUN maintained particularly close ties with intelligence and counter-intelligence services of the countries where it found shelter: land-owners-ruled Poland and Romania and Nazi Germany since 1933.

The OUN leader Colonel Yevgheni Konovaletz, former commander of the pogromist "Sichovi Strilci" ("Riflemen of the Sich") Corps, established personal contact with Hitler as far back as 1931. After Hitler came to power in Germany two years later, that contact played no small part in the relationship between OUN and German special services.

OUN used to receive up to 10,000 marks a month from the Gestapo. Shortly after the army intelligence service (Abwehr) had been formed, it began to pay the OUN leaders 7,000 marks for special missions. And at that time the Abwehr was just a small department within the War Ministry. The contacts became much closer after Admiral Kana-  
ris was appointed head of army intelligence. Every section of the Abwehr, and in particular the 2nd Department (sabotage and subversion), availed itself of OUN services.

From 1933 many OUN leaders had been making frequent trips to the USA, Canada and other Western countries as Nazi envoys. They helped set up a number of organisations in the United States that year such as the Young Ukrainian Nationalists, the Ukrainian Catholic Youth League and the Ukrainian Youth League of North America. The Organisation for Defence of Lemkivshchina was formed in 1936.



Two OUN-affiliated bodies in Canada were called the Organisation for National Rebirth of Ukraine and Ukrainian National Unity. They all became vital components of the ramified fascist fifth column knocked together by Hitler Germany.

Besides Yevgheni Konovaletz, other OUN leaders also co-operated with Nazi special services. They included Colonel Andrei Melnyk, who succeeded Konovaletz as Chairman of the OUN, and S. Bandera, who headed a group which split from the OUN in 1940. Their closest associates also worked as spies for Germany, Italy, Poland, Japan, and other capitalist countries.

This brochure is based on documentary evidence and eyewitness accounts. It describes how the Ukrainian nationalist organisations in Europe committed numerous massacres and other atrocities during World War II on Nazi orders. The spotlight is on the activities of the "Halychyna" SS Division.

## **At the Service of Nazi Germany**

When Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, it had worked out detailed plans for the latter's destruction. Among other things, they called for the abolition of the Ukraine as a state and populating it with German settlers. All who did not suit the new regime, the recalcitrant and suspect elements, were to be exterminated, and the rest were to be evicted from the land (65 per cent of the population were to be moved from the Western regions alone) or turned into the humble and lowly slaves of the future settlers. Nazi leaders had stated on more than one occasion that the Ukraine was historically a German land and that all of it including its wealth "from now on was our, German property for all times".

In their plans for the extermination of the Ukraine's "non-Aryan" inhabitants the Nazi assigned a role to Ukrainian nationalists from various anti-Soviet emigre organisations. At the time the war broke out the main centres of these organizations were in Germany and functioned under the tutelage of Nazi intelligence and counterintelligence

services. When preparations for an attack on the Soviet Union had moved into high gear, the Abwehr, the SS forces and the SD Security Service also intensified their activity. They made wide use of Ukrainian emigre nationalist organisations for recruiting spies, saboteurs and future soldiers of punitive detachments.

A special forces company with code number 800 was attached to the Abwehr as far back as October 1939 for carrying out sabotage and terrorist operations. A year later it was already a regiment which was named "Brandenburg" because it was stationed in Brandenburg near Berlin. It was formed into a division during the war, in 1942. In view of the regiment's specific missions it was manned by Russian-speaking saboteurs and incorporated two battalions, "Roland" and "Nachtigall", formed of persons of Ukrainian extraction living in Germany as well as in Nazi-occupied Austria, Poland and other countries. Most of them were members of the Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists and other emigre nationalist bodies and groups.

The "Nachtigall" Battalion provides a good example of the kind of activities carried out by the Abwehr's "Brandenburg" Regiment.

The battalion commander was A. Herzner, a German officer. From the "Ukrainian side" he was assisted by Major Tur. The battalion's political officer was Theodor Oberlaender, *Oberleutnant*, who headed "Abwehr-2", the sabotage and subversion department at the headquarters of Army Group South in 1941-1942. After the war he held a ministerial post in Konrad Adenauer's government in the Federal Republic of Germany until his Nazi connections were exposed in May 1960.

The "Nachtigall" Battalion marched into the city of Lvov on June 30, 1941 together with Ger-

man advance units. There followed shootings and massacres which claimed the lives of more than 150,000 local residents including Ukrainians, Russians, Poles, and Jews.

The first victims died in the hands of the "Nachtigall" Battalion which had with it lists of persons to be liquidated. In the very first days of Nazi occupation its officers and men knifed, drowned, hanged or shot hundreds of prominent public and political figures, scientists, doctors, writers, and members of their families. The Ukrainian nationalists serving with the battalion death squads staged a big Jewish pogrom in Lvov in revenge for the death of Simon Petlyura, their ringleader, who was killed by a Parisian Jew, Sholom Schwarzbard, in May 1926.

Similar missions were assigned to the "Roland" Battalion which operated in the Southern regions of the Ukraine.

To please the Nazi invaders the Ukrainian nationalists marked the German entry into Lvov on that day, June 30, 1941, by yet another act of treason. They held a "great assembly of representatives of the Western lands of the Ukraine", which was attended by officials of the German occupation bodies and Abwehr officers. Of course, the show had been planned in advance in Berlin. The gathering was addressed by Yaroslav Stetsko, Bandera's closest associate, who arrived in the Ukraine with the Germans. Stetsko proclaimed the formation of a "Ukrainian government" on those lands and named himself its Prime Minister. The Ukrainian commander of the "Nachtigall" Battalion, Major Tur, joined the "cabinet" as Second Deputy Minister for Military Affairs. Stetsko later wrote that his government sought "to establish the

closest possible co-operation with the German military authorities, to help them in every way it can by organising on its own any form of assistance to the German armed forces that might be necessary."

However, a week later the German invaders, intoxicated by their first victories, no longer considered it necessary to carry out their schemes of using collaborationists and thus disbanded the "government".

Neither Hitler nor the Ukrainian Gauleiter Erich Koch needed any more spectacular displays on a territory they wanted to turn into a German colony. A plan of genocide and plunder of the Ukraine was put into effect. The German invaders' real intentions with regard to this land were exposed later, at the Nuremberg trial of the major war criminals. For instance, it came to light that Erich Koch wrote in 1942: "The Ukraine to us is nothing but an object of exploitation."

On August 1, 1941 most of the Western Ukrainian lands were incorporated into the so-called Governorship-General set up in Poland's central part on Hitler's instructions.

In the meantime, however, there were obvious signs that the schemes for a "lightning war" were not succeeding. The Soviet forces put up staunch resistance to the Nazi invaders. Civilians in the occupied lands refused to reconcile themselves to the loss of freedom, and many of them resorted to armed struggle. Thousands of guerrilla groups, detachments and large units totalling 500 thousand men operated in the Ukraine alone.

The Soviet victory in the battle of Stalingrad gave a powerful impetus to the Resistance movement in Nazi-occupied countries. Large areas be-

hind the German lines were taken over by guerrillas.

The German invaders staged massacres of civilians on the pretext of fighting guerrillas. For instance, the Chief of Staff of the German High Command, Field-Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, issued an order on December 16, 1942 saying that the army had both the right and the duty to "use any means without exception in this fight [against guerrillas], including action against women and children, if this will lead to success". The order stated that no German could be brought to disciplinary or judicial account for his conduct in the fight against the guerrillas and their helpers. As a matter of fact, those regulations supplemented an earlier order of May 13, 1941 whereby German soldiers were relieved of responsibility for any crimes against civilians.

However, in 1943 it was clear to the Nazi leaders that they would have to withdraw from the captured areas, that this rollback was inevitable. Under those circumstances they began to give serious thought to covering up the traces of their crimes. Besides destroying common graves, in which victims of mass executions were buried, and resorting to the use of crematoria on a large scale, the SS Command decided to form units of non-German nationals within the SS forces to which they could assign part of the dirty work. Himmler's department, which ran the Gestapo, SD and SS forces, needed more and more men for "special" and "counter-guerrilla" operations.

A shortage of manpower was also felt on the frontline. The Chief of Operational Staff at the High Command Headquarters, Colonel-General Alfred Jodl, made this statement on November 7, 1943, addressing reichsleiters and gauleiters: "In

view of this problem of personnel shortage we have decided to intensify the use of manpower resources in our occupied territories."

And so the Nazi leaders decided to set up the "Halychyna" Division within the SS forces. By 1943 they had gained some experience in forming and using SS foreign units in occupied territories. The full name of the new division was 14th "Halychyna" Volunteer Infantry SS Division. The SS forces incorporated 19 such divisions during the war.

## **The Nationalists' Role in Forming the "Halychyna" SS Division**

The decision to form an SS division made up of inhabitants from the District of Galicia,\* which was included by the Germans in the Governorship-General in 1941, was adopted on recommendations from Gottlob Berger in charge of setting up "foreign units" in the SS forces. For him this was yet another success, it showed that

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\* Galicia is the name customarily used for designating an historical and geographic area which does not coincide with the present-day administrative division. Galicia includes the territory of the present Lvov, Ternopol and Ivan-Frankovsk regions in the Ukrainian SSR (Eastern Galicia) and of the Przemyśl, Rzeszów, Krosno, Nowy Sącz and some other regions in the Polish People's Republic (Western Galicia). Eastern Galicia is historically a Ukrainian land. For a long time it was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and landowners-ruled Poland. It joined Soviet Ukraine in 1939.

he and the *SS-Hauptamt* (the SS Chief Department) he headed coped with their duties well by supplying more and more personnel for the punitive detachments.

The question of "foreign units" within the SS forces had long been a subject of heated debates among leading Nazi functionaries and generals many of whom objected to including non-Aryans, "subhumans", from captured states into Germany's elite corps. However, SS-Reichsfuehrer Heinrich Himmler, Berger, his deputy for "Ukrainian affairs" at the *SS-Hauptamt* F. Arlt and Governor of the District of Galicia, SS General O. Waechter, vigorously supported the idea. They were able to overcome the opponents' objections. And besides, by 1943 the political and military situation on the front, in occupied territories and in Germany itself increased the urgency of forming an SS division in Galicia.

The organisations of Ukrainian nationalists had also been assigned a role in this scenario. At the bidding of the SS, SD and Abwehr, they had sent out numerous emotional appeals to leaders of the Nazi party and armed forces asking for permission to form army units of non-German nationals to fight "Jews and Bolsheviks" alongside the German army.

Berger, Arlt, Waechter and other supporters of the idea used such appeals to back up their project. They pointed to the readiness of "local Ukrainians" to serve the Third Reich faithfully.

Of course, all those appeals had been drafted at the Abwehr and SS offices and their authors, as a rule, were agents of those special services.

It is widely known both in the Ukraine and abroad that telegrams and petitions were sent to Nazi leaders in the first months of the war by An-



drei Melnyk, Vladimir Kubijovych, Nikolai Velichkovsky, and other Ukrainian nationalists. All of them harped on the same theme about the need to form Ukrainian units which would serve Nazi Germany's interests.

It is also known that all the above-mentioned nationalists collaborated with the Abwehr, SS and Gestapo and loyally served the Nazi invaders. A. Melnyk, for instance, sent his petition to Hitler through *Abwehrstelle-2*\* in Cracow, and N. Velichkovsky through Abwehr's Captain Hans Koch; as for V. Kubijovych, he never did anything without either permission or instruction from his *Abwehrstelle*.

A letter sent from Berlin by the OUN Chairman A. Melnyk on February 6, 1943 had also been prepared in German offices. In the letter Melnyk once again requested permission to "form a combat Ukrainian force". It said the Ukrainian nationalists were ready to place themselves at the disposal of the High Command of Nazi Germany's armed forces. This document was considered sufficiently important to be included in the "arguments" in favour of forming the "Halychyna" SS Division.

Those petitions with their bombastic phrases about the defence of "national interests" and formation of a "Ukrainian force" are now used by the Ukrainian nationalists as "evidence" of their concern for the well-being of their land and its people. They claim that the Ukrainian nationalist organisations were, believe it or not, almost in a state of a bitter war against the Nazi invaders.

In actual fact, however, the Ukrainian nationalists and their masters in the SS and Abwehr had

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\* *Abwehrstelle* means an Abwehr local unit.

to juggle with such terms as "national interests" in order to ensure success of their provocative and subversive activities, the ultimate aim of which was to render effective service to Nazi Germany.

Thus, in 1943 the Ukrainian nationalist organisations and their ringleaders were involved in the campaign to form the "Halychyna" SS Division and to recruit tens of thousands of young Ukrainians for it. Many of those young men became fratricides and gave their lives not for the Ukraine and its people but for Reichsfuehrer SS Heinrich Himmler and Adolf Hitler.

## **How the "Halychyna" SS Division Was Formed**

The present-day propaganda-mongers, in their attempt to glorify the division, are idealising practically everything associated with its history, from the "mass signing-up" by volunteers to their "heroic" conduct in the fight against the Soviet forces and guerrillas.

Of course, there were some volunteers among the men. At the meetings called to announce the division's formation diehard enemies of Soviet government did say they wished to join it. Among them were former members of the Ukrainian counterrevolutionary armies and armed bands operating in the Ukraine during the Civil War, up to the early 1920s.

However, young people did not respond with too much enthusiasm. Therefore, besides the official recruiters, the local branches of the Organi-

sation of Ukrainian Nationalists, clergymen and college and schoolteachers were also drawn into the campaign to exert a stronger influence on youth. School headmasters and college principals, either moved by their own nationalistic views or under pressure from above, forced students and senior pupils to sign up as "volunteers" and sent them to the recruiting offices. Some were also lured by promises that they would receive graduation certificates without taking examinations.

But the chief method was coercion. Men capable of bearing arms were rounded up in Galicia's towns and villages and sent to the recruiting offices to fulfill the quotas for "volunteers".

The Ukrainian Central Committee headed by Vladimir Kubijovych was also engaged in the campaign. The Committee was based in Cracow, closer to Hans Frank, Governor-General of Poland, and it was from there that it sent instructions on enlisting volunteers to its local branches.

But the SS Command realised that it was unrealistic to think that the division could be formed of volunteers alone. And so in early 1944 the administrative board of the District of Galicia issued a secret order on the call-up of young men from the age of 18. Documents of the division show that its Military Council and the local occupation authorities knew about that order.

Recruiters from the Military Council and the Ukrainian Central Committee stopped at nothing to force young Galicians to sign up for military service. Meetings and rallies in support of the draft were held in such an atmosphere that some people felt they had to sign up in order to avoid persecution or other trouble. Shortly afterwards they received summons to appear before a medical commission. Those who failed to report or who

later evaded being sent to the division assembly points were rounded up by the German or Ukrainian police and taken there under guard. The division had what was known as *Begleitungs-Kommando* to register deserters and send them on to SS units on a daily basis. Some of those "volunteers" tried to flee later, too, and were subjected to cruel punishment. Some of them were even shot by firing squads.

But nevertheless the organisers were later able to report to the SS Command that the division had been manned by volunteers only and that it fully justified its name, the 14th Volunteer Infantry SS Division. That was what it looked like on the surface. All soldiers, both volunteers and non-volunteers, were required to fill in an application form stating that they had joined the division of their own free will. And yet the recruiting drive was not a success. About one third of the division remained unfilled because not enough volunteers could be found, not even people who could be made to enlist through coercion or deceit.

## The "Halychyna" Division, an SS Unit

Ukrainian nationalists are now leaning over backwards to picture the division as a unit set up at their own initiative and spearheaded against Nazi Germany. They call it a "Ukrainian division" which allegedly operated as part of the Ukrainian National Army (UNA). \*

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\* The formation of the Ukrainian National Army in Germany was announced in March 1945.

This is understandable enough. The SS brand is a criminal and disgraceful one. However, there is no getting away from the fact that the division was set up and it operated as part of the SS forces. Its formation was announced on April 28, 1943 and Nazi propaganda-mongers took pains to stress Hitler's approval of it which was given at a ceremony marking his birthday. The announcement was made in the building housing the Administrative Board of the occupied District of Galicia in the presence of its officials and of O. Losacker, Minister of the Interior in the Governorship-General, who had come specially to Lvov from Cracow and who represented Governor-General Hans Frank. There were also members of the National Socialist Party, the press, the armed forces, and the police headed by General Katzmann.

The master of ceremonies was Otto Bauer, Chief of the Administrative Board of the District of Galicia. The Governor, Otto Waechter, made a lengthy speech. He also announced the formation of an executive body subordinated to him personally, which would be in charge of recruitment for the Division.

Waechter appointed Colonel A. Bisanz, a seasoned Abwehr officer, to head this outfit called the Military Council of the "Halychyna" SS Division. His deputy was S. Beihert, Waechter's closest associate in the spying activities in Lvov in 1939-1940.

Like A. Bisanz, S. Beihert was considered an "expert in Ukrainian affairs"; together with Bisanz he served as a lieutenant in the Ukrainian Galician Army fighting on the counterrevolutionary

side in the Ukraine between 1918 and 1920. Later, in 1939 and 1940, together with Waechter he was engaged in intelligence work in Lvov under cover of his official capacity as a member of the commission for the repatriation of ethnic Germans.

The Military Council was under the full control of Waechter and the *SS Ergaenzungsamt* (the SS Recruitment Office), which, in the final count, played the main role throughout the recruitment campaign.

At the above-mentioned ceremony the floor was also given to Dr. Kubijovych. Speaking on behalf of the pro-fascist Ukrainian Central Committee which he headed, he painted a glowing picture of how it helped dispatch Ukrainians for work in Germany and how it spared no effort in collecting funds, foodstuffs and warm clothes for Hitler's Reich and its armed forces. He went out of his way to convince the invaders that the Ukrainian Central Committee and he, Kubijovych personally, would carry out the new assignment of forming the division and would do it with the same fervour. V. Kubijovych wound up his speech by assuring Governor Waechter that he and his "Committee" would fulfill this commitment.

The speech was quite obviously a big propaganda exercise designed to influence the Ukrainian population in Eastern Galicia in a direction favourable to the SS recruiters. The aim was also to create the impression that Galicia, "which has belonged to Germany from time immemorial", was eager to contribute to the struggle against the Bolsheviks. The short-term objective was to deceive at least some of the Galicians and persuade them to join the Division.

To pressurize young men into signing up, the Nazis also made use of the Ukrainian Catholic

(Uniate) Church and the Autocephalous (Independent) Orthodox Church headed by experienced fascist agents at that time.

The Uniate Church was particularly zealous in this respect. Immediately after the meeting at which the formation of the division was announced, Governor Waechter and his retinue, in accordance with the scenario written by SS propaganda-mongers, attended high mass celebrated by Archbishop Iosif Slipoy who later succeeded Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky. At present Iosif Slipoy is a cardinal and primate of the Ukrainian Uniate Church abroad.

The sermon was delivered by Vassili Laba, Doctor of Theology, who was appointed a member of the division's Military Council. Shortly afterwards, having received the rank of SS major, he became the division's Senior Chaplain. Dr. Laba likened himself and the future SS division to Crusaders. Exclaiming "That is God's will!", he called on the future SS-men to go into battle against the Bolsheviks alongside German soldiers. An important part of the sermon was delivered in German for the benefit of the representatives of the occupation authorities. V. Laba expressed gratitude to the Fuehrer and gave assurances that the soldiers of the new division would fight bravely for Greater Germany.

V. Laba and the chaplains subordinate to him preached sermons of this kind before the division's officers and men on numerous occasions. Besides V. Laba, the Uniate Church sent more than 20 other priests to the division to act as spiritual counselors to its personnel in the "fight against Jews and Bolsheviks".

The former chaplain of the "Nachtigall" Battalion, Ivan Vsevolod Durbak, also joined the divi-

sion. He zealously disseminated the battalion's experience in the extermination of all who failed to suit the purposes of the Third Reich.

These priests, former SS-men of the "Halychyna" Division, continue to engage in anti-Soviet propaganda to this day. One of them, Ivan Muzychka, Doctor of Theology, lives in Rome where he persists in his subversive activity. Another SS-man, Stefan Mudry, is also active there as the rector of a theological seminary. Another former chaplain of the division, Mikhail Levenets, is currently preaching Bandera's ideas in France. Their cloth does not absolve them of responsibility for their service with the SS forces or for their crimes punishable under the penal codes of many nations. There can be no pardon for those who had helped German recruiters drive young Ukrainians into an SS division, who had aided and abetted them in the extermination of civilians in many Ukrainian, Polish, Slovak, and Yugoslav towns and villages.

A big send-off ceremony was arranged by SS-men in July 1943 to mark the dispatch of the volunteers to schools and training camps. The places where the meetings were held were ablaze with Nazi flags with swastikas and SS emblems, including that of the "Halychyna" SS Division which showed a lion with three crowns. That, supposedly, was associated with the lion in Lvov's traditional emblem.

The volunteer units, holding banners with swastikas and with hands thrust out in a Nazi salute, marched past the dignitaries of the District of Galicia occupation authorities. The SS recruiters hoped that the nationalist flags, emblems and tridents, which were part of the send-off trappings, would help attract more volunteers to the division.

And yet, on the other hand, the Germans never



concealed the fact that all that pomp and ceremony was nothing but propaganda. As soon as the recruits arrived at their schools and training camps, the trappings were cast aside, and all power was placed in the hands of the officers and sergeants. Anything associated with the Ukraine was banned. Their job was to turn the Ukrainians, both the soldiers and their commanders, into the obedient servants of the SS.

The division's German commanders carried out to the letter the order of Reichsfuehrer SS Himmler issued on July 14, 1943, even before the send-off of the volunteers to the training camps. The order flatly prohibited naming the unit a "Ukrainian formation or a Ukrainian division". Any mention of the words "the Ukraine" or "Ukrainian" was forbidden to division personnel on pain of punishment. The unit was to be called 14th "Halychyna" Volunteer Infantry SS Division, and this official name was the only thing allowed.

That was the first object lesson given to the officers and men, it showed them what the division actually was and who its real masters were. Later, the entire fate of the division and, in particular, its operations, were placed under the control of the Supreme Commander of the SS forces, Reichsfuehrer Himmler and SS generals appointed by him. And this situation remained till the last days of Hitler's Third Reich.

## **What Was Taught at SS Schools and How**

An initial selection of recruits took place during the medical checkup. The drafting

board picked out sons of rich parents and Nazi collaborators who had won a reputation by their faithful service to the Third Reich, that is, those close in spirit to the German oppressors. They were sent to SS units that were assigned guard and other "special" duties in POW camps and such death factories as Treblinka, Majdanek, Sobibor, and Belzec, to name just a few.

Several hundred were chosen from among those who had already proved their loyalty to the Germans by their activity. They were to be trained in espionage, radio communications and subversions. Later they were dropped behind the Soviet Army lines or were used for sabotage and subversive work in areas which the German invaders would soon have to abandon under pressure from the advancing Soviet forces.

Himmler's department decided to give "Halychyna" SS Division servicemen ideological and other special training. The idea was to mould them into ruthless hatchet men who would not stop at murder or any kind of destructive acts. To this end, they were formed into groups of 50, 150 and 300 and sent to field camps and also spying, sabotage and other specialised schools that trained sappers, gunners, radio and telephone operators, medical personnel, drivers, and war correspondents.

The schools and camps were situated in Germany (Hamburg, Karlsruhe, Koblenz, Oldenburg, Osnabrueck), Poland (Debica, Wroclaw and Neuhammer /now Swietoszow/) as well as in other cities and also on Czechoslovak territory. A large group of future SS-men received training and took a practical course with police units in Alsace, France. Many of them later formed the 5th Regiment of the "Halychyna" SS Division, which was

widely used by the Nazis in punitive expeditions and counter guerrilla operations.

The training camps and schools operated in an atmosphere of psychological and physical terror. SS commissioned and non-commissioned officers would think up senseless punishments for the sake of punishment, of injuring their charges' dignity as human beings. The poorly clad and hungry soldiers were marched to proving grounds and training centres many kilometres away from their barracks. Training as often as not resulted in self-mutilation. Deserters were shot. Severe punishments were meted out for any breach of discipline. All that created a climate of fear and confusion. No one was sure what might happen to him in the next hour.

Nowadays the former SS-men of the division and their nationalist defenders are trying to use all such incidents to their advantage. They like to point to the atrocities of the German commanders as evidence that the "Halychyna" Division and the Third Reich pursued quite different aims. But nevertheless, it is a fact that the *Uebermenschen* (supermen), the German SS officers, who treated Galicians with unconcealed contempt, wanted to instil bloodthirsty, beastly instincts in their trainees through torture and derision, to whip up their hatred for other nationalities, and to prepare them for the mechanical execution of the most inhuman acts. Hunger and humiliation further goaded the trainees into taking part in punitive expeditions which were invariably accompanied by plunder and looting.

By agreement with local SS and police units trainees were often used to guard concentration camps and to shoot those inmates who had been condemned to death. Under the guise of fighting

guerrillas and maintaining order in areas adjacent to the training camps the trainees went on a number of punitive expeditions against the civilian population in Poland and Czechoslovakia and engaged in systematic plunder as part of the so-called "food requisition actions".

While at the training camps and schools, the servicemen took an oath of allegiance to Nazi Germany and to Adolf Hitler. In accordance with Himmler's orders, the text of the oath did not contain a single mention of the Ukraine. At the oath-taking ceremony all emphasis was put on the fact that it was a lifelong pledge to obey Adolf Hitler and to act in full accordance with his will and orders.

The training units stationed in Nazi-occupied areas terrorised local residents for many long months. The SS soldiers used that opportunity to put into practice what they learned in camps and schools. Take, for instance, the massacres committed in just one month, November 1943. On the 4th of that month about 2,800 Jews held in a concentration camp in the village of Szebnie in Krosno Region were sent to Oswiecim (Auschwitz). The rest, numbering about 500, were shot two days later in a forest near the village of Dobrucow. Almost 300 soldiers from the division took part in the shooting. They had been brought from a training camp in the Jaslo district of Krosno Region.

On the day of that massacre, November 6, Soviet forces liberated Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine. Several months before their flight from the city the Nazi invaders had taken steps to destroy the evidence of their crimes. And partially they had succeeded. As the time drew near when the Nazi invaders would have to leave the rest of the occupied territory, the SS and police units tried not

to leave behind any fresh traces of their deeds. The Dobrucow massacre was a case in point. The condemned people were forced to strip naked and after they were shot their corpses were burned.

Massacres of civilians were staged by SS-men stationed at a training camp near the Polish town of Debica. On November 23 and 27, under the pretext of fighting guerrillas, they burned down two villages, killing more than 600 inhabitants. The punitive expeditions were organized according to one and the same scenario. Villagers were driven into the central square, asked to give information on the whereabouts of guerrillas, tortured, shot or hanged. That month, according to the Archives Department at the USSR Council of Ministers, servicemen from the division killed more than 2,000 civilians on Polish territory. Twenty villages were razed. And we must remember that the division existed for two whole years.

All newspapers put out by the occupation authorities in the District of Galicia in February and March 1944 gave front-page prominence to the funeral of two soldiers from the Division killed by guerrillas in the village of Huta Pieniacka. The funeral was attended by Governor Waechter, divisional commanders, Chairman of the Military Council A. Bisanz, and other Nazi dignitaries. The funeral was staged for the purpose of whipping up the hatred of the division's officers and men for the defiant inhabitants of occupied lands.

In revenge for the death of those two soldiers the division's SS-men together with other Nazi units burned down the villages of Huta Pieniacka and Pieniaki near Brody in Lvov Region. All inhabitants, mainly Poles, were either shot or burned alive. The number of victims totalled 750.

This time the SS propaganda-mongers did not even try to conceal the massacre. The division newspaper *Do peremogi* ("To Victory") stated in no uncertain terms that "Huta Pieniacka and Pieniaki had ceased to exist".

The official "Chronicle of the SS Division" also recorded the operations of its 4th Regiment: "On March 6 this year the Bolsheviks temporarily seized the eastern and northern districts of Ternopol. . . When the Germans and our SS-men recaptured that part of the city from the Bolsheviks, our men drove all the Poles into a Catholic church and killed them there."

Such are the facts. They show that various units of the division had more than once interrupted their training to take part in operations against Soviet, Polish and Czechoslovak guerrillas. In a number of cases large units totalling 1,000 to 1,300 men were sent on such missions. Most often, however, smaller detachments were involved, in particular, when on the pretext of fighting guerrillas units were sent on punitive and looting expeditions against the civilian population.

## **The End of Training. The Divisional Commanders**

The division had completed its training in classrooms and on proving grounds by the spring of 1944, and had gained some experience in shootings, in punitive expeditions against disobedient civilians and in "special" actions in con-

centration camps. From their training centres the SS-men were brought to the town of Neuhammer where they were divided into battalions and regiments.

Those who had received training at army engineers, artillery, and other schools arrived at Neuhammer in March. The nature of their training can be seen from the fact that graduates from the "engineers" schools or, to be more exact, sabotage schools in Hamburg, Koblenz, Kalsruhe and other German cities were sent to the reconnaissance battalion of the "Halychyna" Division. There they held practical training classes with the main emphasis on polishing up demolition and sabotage techniques.

Meanwhile, things on the Eastern front were going from bad to worse for the Nazis. At the time the decision to form the division was taken, the Soviet campaign to drive the invaders out of the Ukraine had only just begun. But by the end of March 1944 the Nazi armies had been pushed back behind the USSR borders in a comparatively large sector of the front.

The SS Command was in a hurry to commit the "Halychyna" Division to battle. Its units brought to Neuhammer were formed into groups and sent to fight Soviet and Polish guerrillas. Some of those units as well as those engaged in "pacifying" the uncomplying population in the areas of their training had become so deeply involved in punitive actions that they could not even arrive at Neuhammer in time. The two hundred and fifty "volunteers" enrolled in officer schools had not been able to come to the division assembly area before its dispatch to the front either.

The Ukrainian nationalists now maintain that the "Halychyna" SS Division was a Ukrainian

unit commanded by Ukrainian officers. But no matter what they might say, the facts tell a different story.

The division commanding officer was *SS-Brigade-fuehrer* Fritz Freitag. Simon Petlyura's former general Mykola Kapustyansky, who was very active in the formation of the division, had to admit after the war that "the division command was German. The command of the infantry regiments, the artillery regiment and of nearly all the artillery battalions was in German hands. Besides, German officers were at the head of all the main units in the battalions of the infantry regiments, artillery battalions and other fighting arms and services... Even the supply officers of the batteries and companies and quartermaster-sergeants were Germans."

Of course, there were exceptions to the rule. But they only underlined the predominance of the Germans in that "Galician" SS division.

The falsifiers of history in other countries sometimes describe General Victor Kurmanovych as the division commander. However, it should be mentioned that he was only the "honorary chairman" of its Military Council in which all power was wielded by Colonel Bisanz. Those who had given Kurmanovych his title hoped that his name would help bring in volunteers from among former soldiers of the counterrevolutionary armies and groups or simply nationalistically-minded persons. However, those hopes failed to materialise. Many in Galicia knew Kurmanovych as a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Austrian General Staff and an agent of the old Austrian and later Nazi intelligence services. He worked with Austro-Hungarian army intelligence in World War I and in 1919 became War Minister in the counterrevolutionary govern-



ment of the "West Ukrainian National Republic". Later he became an agent of the Nazi Abwehr and was active in the formation of the fifth column on the American continent.

The highest posts occupied by officers of Ukrainian origin in the division were those of regimental commanders. One of them, Colonel M. Palienko, was killed in July 1944. Another Colonel, Yevgheny Pobihushchy, settled in West Germany after the war.

Pobihushchy's career began with service in the counterrevolutionary Ukrainian Galician Army and participation in the "crusade" against the young Soviet Republic conducted by that army. After World War I Pobihushchy studied theology for some time, but later served the Polish oppressors of Western Ukraine. Arrogance and self-conceit coupled with subservience and opportunism helped him build a career. For instance, immediately after World War I Pobihushchy, as a Ukrainian, was not allowed to enter an institution of higher learning, but now, having served the Polish landlords faithfully and won his masters' favour, he was able to enrol in a military school and become a Polish army officer.

When Nazi Germany attacked Poland in September 1939, Pobihushchy, then a captain in the Polish army, without too many qualms, broke his military oath of allegiance and went over to the German side. The zeal and obsequiousness with which he offered his services to the Nazis and his readiness to help the invaders did not pass unnoticed: he was assigned to Nazi special agencies. His extreme anti-Bolshevism and worship of everything fascist also played a part in that.

The Abwehr entrusted him with secret missions. The following year he was made commander of

the "Roland" Battalion formed of Ukrainian nationalists. The battalion was stationed near Vienna where it underwent intensive training for carrying out the Abwehr's most important assignment: to wipe out all anti-Nazi forces on a potential enemy's territory.

It did not take the German special services very long to reveal who that potential enemy was. Shortly before the attack on the Soviet Union the "Roland" Battalion was assigned an operational area which included Izmail, Odessa and Nikolayev Regions in the Ukraine.

After "Roland" had accomplished the top-priority tasks set by the Abwehr and SS, it merged with "Nachtigall" to form a new punitive unit, "Schutzmannschaftbataillon 201". In late 1941 it was dispatched to Byelorussia where it carried out counter-guerrilla operations. And Pobihushchy was its commander again. He joined the "Halychyna" SS Division as a seasoned hangman with vast punitive experience. There can be no doubt, therefore, that the Nazis put Kurmanovych, Palienko and Pobihushchy in commanding posts because of their faithful service to Hitler Germany.

After the war, finding himself in Germany, Pobihushchy worked for West German, British and American intelligence services. He taught at a radio intelligence school in West Germany in 1948-1949, and in 1954, using the assumed name of Eugen Ren, and under US direction began to recruit Ukrainian emigres for what was known as the "foreign hundreds". When this scheme collapsed, Pobihushchy-Ren became one of the chief mentors of the Ukrainian Youth Association (UYA). His job is to brainwash young Ukrainians into accepting anti-Sovietism, to turn them into thoughtless henchmen capable of committing acts of sabo-

tage and terror, including fratricide, against the Ukraine, their historical motherland.

So the division's SS-men had been schooled by German officers and sergeants as well as by Ukrainian arch-traitors such as Kurmanovych or Pohibushchy, who had sold themselves to the Nazis on more than one occasion. As a result, the division became yet another punitive force at the disposal of the Nazi Command, a force responsible for the death of thousands of innocent people.

## **SS Atrocities in Galicia**

Reichsfuehrer SS Heinrich Himmler visited the "Halychyna" Division in May 1944. He familiarised himself on the spot with the Division's combat and special training and made a lengthy speech before its officers.

Ten months before the trip Himmler had issued an order whereby it was forbidden to call the division a Ukrainian unit. So in that speech on May 17, 1944 he considered it necessary to explain the reasons for the ban. He told his audience that Galicia had belonged to Germany for 150 years and would continue to be part of it until Hitler "makes a final decision on the future of the European nations" after the war. Himmler could not help boasting about how his cutthroats had "improved" Galicia by exterminating the Jewish residents there. He also paid tribute to the "Halychyna" Division, noting its part in the massacres of Polish civilians. Evidently, the Reichsfuehrer had good reason

to say that its officers and men liked killing Poles. "I know", he said, "that if I ordered the division to liquidate Poles in this or that area, you would welcome the order."

However, Himmler also demanded total obedience, loyalty to the oath of allegiance to Hitler, and said that the division should be prepared to carry out any orders, however "unpleasant". So the first condition he laid down was that "there should be no place for any politics in the division... Our politics is to fight the enemy".

Himmler announced that the division would be sent to the front in the very near future. As for the Poles, he said "the Fuehrer himself will deal with the matter. This will take place when we receive the orders..."

The division's main units were sent to Galician territory, close to the frontline, in early July 1944. Its vanguard, a special company, had been operating in the area for a whole month in a bid to clear it of guerrillas and anti-fascist underground organisations.

The company performed its punitive functions in accordance with the scheme worked out at the training camps: the SS men drove the inhabitants of the condemned villages to meetings, demanded of them to give away Communists, guerrillas and Jews, and hanged or shot several dozen persons picked out at random to frighten the rest into submission. Children and old people were not spared. To save ammunition, the victims were locked in huts or barns and burned alive. Children were either knifed or drowned in wells. Among the means of mass annihilation were mobile gas chambers. All able-bodied persons were sent to forced labour camps in Germany.

Many villages were razed to the ground, their inhabitants massacred, and their food stocks and property plundered.

According to the Archives Department at the USSR Council of Ministers, the division's special company shot dead or tortured to death more than 1,500 civilians in Lvov Region from early June to July 12, 1944, and thousands were driven away to be deported to Germany. These findings are based on documentary evidence confirmed by numerous eyewitness accounts.

A big township, Olesko, a district centre, was burned down after July 12. Two hundred and eighty-seven of its residents were massacred.

In that same period the special company was also directly involved in shooting 2,000 Soviet prisoners of war in a POW camp in the town of Zolochiv in Lvov Region. This is a heinous war crime, an everlasting indictment of the "Halychyna" SS Division, its organisers and servicemen.

## **The Rout of the Division and Its Reorganisation**

Units of the division totalling 11,000 officers and men moved to Lvov Region in early July 1944. They were included in the 13th Corps of the 4th Tank Army. The latter was part of Army Group Northern Ukraine.

The forces of the Soviet 1st Ukrainian Front launched an offensive against the Army Group on July 13, and the division was committed to battle

the following day to cover the retreat of the 13th Corps. The division failed to carry out the mission and was encircled near the town of Brody. Eight Nazi divisions were trapped there, and their rout was completed in the main by July 22.

During that one week the "Halychyna" SS Division lost more than three quarters of its officers and men. Only a few scattered groups of what was left of it managed to escape. Some of its soldiers joined the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UIA) armed by the Germans and assigned the task of conducting subversive and terrorist activities behind the Soviet Army lines.

Following the rout at Brody the Nazis decided to rebuild the division as an SS unit as soon as possible. The Governor of Galicia, Otto Waechter, the division military council headed by Colonel Alfred Bisanz, the Ukrainian Central Committee, and the Nazi-controlled press launched a fresh recruitment drive.

Whereas in the previous year the division was chiefly manned by Galicians, in 1944 the Germans sent to it all Nazi collaborators that were at hand, including former policemen from areas liberated by the Soviet Army. The SS recruiters even tried to enlist "volunteers" from among the prisoners of war, *Ostarbeiter* ("Eastern workers"), and the so-called "border areas' labourers". The Nazis managed to form the division within a short time and to bring its strength to 16,000 officers and men.

The new division took part in suppressing the Slovak popular uprising in late October 1944. It continued to carry out punitive functions. Retreating under the pressure of Soviet forces, it took part in counterguerrilla and punitive operations in Slovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia. And again its

path was marked by gallows, fires and the corpses of mutilated women, children and old people.

By the start of the new year 1945, nearly all Nazi invaders had been driven out of Soviet territory. The Soviet Army had also freed a number of the Nazi-enslaved countries in Eastern Europe. The British and American forces had approached German borders while Soviet troops entered Eastern Prussia.

The Nazi army was short of weapons, ammunition and personnel. In late 1944 the Nazis formed *Volkssturm* ("Home Guard") consisting of persons aged 16 to 60. In view of the inevitable collapse of the Third Reich an organisation called *Wehrwolf* (Werewolf) was set up two months after the formation of the *Volkssturm* at the initiative of Himmler and the Minister for Propaganda, Josef Goebbels. The organization was supposed to engage in underground subversive and terrorist activities on allied-liberated territory. Both the *Volkssturm* and the *Wehrwolf* were the Nazis' last resort. The idea was that the *Wehrwolf* would continue to fight even after Nazi Germany's defeat.

The "Galician" division was also assigned a role in that fight. The SS leadership decided to cover up its SS connection. Two weeks before Nazi Germany's surrender it was named "the First Ukrainian Division". That was how that SS unit got its "Ukrainian" name. The masterminds of that window-dressing operation hoped that this would enable them to dissociate themselves from the Nazi elite troops with their record of mass shootings, executions and destruction of property.

Pavel Shandruk, a pogromist ring-leader of Petlyura's army, was appointed divisional commander. After Petlyura's defeat Shandruk fled to Poland and worked for an emigre centre of the

"Ukrainian National Republic". He engaged in spying, subversive and counterintelligence activity, which earned him the rank of general. His subversive actions against the USSR were directed by the 2nd Department of the Polish General Staff, and this circumstance helped Shandruk to join the Polish army where he attained the rank of major. Like Pobihushchy, Shandruk broke his oath of allegiance to Poland in 1939 to go over to the service of Nazi Germany.

The hard core of the 1st Ukrainian Division was made up of veterans from the "Halychyna" SS Division who survived the Brody encirclement as well as of members of the punitive, guard and police units and Nazi collaborators who fled to the West from the advancing Soviet forces. The 31st SD Punitive Detachment was also included in it.

## **31st Punitive SD Detachment**

This unit was formed in late 1943 of residents of the Nazi-occupied Western territories of the Ukraine, chiefly Rovno, Volyn and Ternopol Regions. It incorporated what was left of the 207th Police Battalion that fled the Ukraine's Eastern areas as well as other Nazi collaborators at hand from regions cleared of the invaders.

The detachment had up to 600 men. The Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists, specifically, the OUN Solidarists headed by Andrei Melnyk, an Abwehr agent known as "Consul-1", was directly involved in its formation.



Besides its official name, under which it was known in the SD and SS offices in Berlin, it was also called the "Ukrainian Self-Defence Legion". It was to create the impression that the Legion was formed for the purpose of fighting back Soviet and Polish guerrillas as well as Bandera's armed gangs which were engaged in brigandage and with which the "legionnaires" were at loggerheads. The detachment was commanded by SD officers and their henchmen, former Petlyura pogromists and OUN-members who had earned the full confidence of the SS and SD leadership.

There were many similarities between the detachment and the "Halychyna" SS Division: both were subordinate to the same SS Command, were formed in 1943 with the OUN's active help, and were headed by German officers. But that was not all. The kinship of these criminal formations was particularly evident from their actions.

The detachment shot and killed several hundred Soviet and Polish POWs in December 1943 as well as the last survivors of a Jewish ghetto in the town of Lutsk. In January and February of the following year the detachment wreaked death and destruction on the territory of Volyn and Rovno Regions in the Ukraine and Lublin, Chelm and Zamosc Regions in Poland. Among other things, its soldiers massacred the inhabitants of the villages of Edward-Polye and Korchunok in Volyn Region.

Together with the 5th Regiment of the "Halychyna" SS Division and Wehrmacht units the detachment carried out a big counterguerrilla operation in Hrubieszow District of Lublin (now Zamosc) Region in March of the same year. Three villages with all their inhabitants were wiped out as a result.

When the detachment commander *Hauptsturmfuehrer* Assmus was killed by Polish patriots in July 1944, his men massacred the inhabitants of the villages of Chlaniow and Wladyslawyn of Chelm Region where he was killed. The soldiers tortured to death all who fell into their hands including women, children and old people, and then burned both villages.

Two companies and several other units of the detachment led by its deputy commander, Colonel Pyotr Dyachenko, took a direct part in suppressing the Warsaw uprising which lasted from August 1 to October 2, 1944.

Incidentally, Dyachenko's career is very similar to that of Pobihushchy and Shandruk. He commanded a regiment of Black Zaporozhye Cossacks in Petlyura's army in 1919 and joined the Polish interventionists in their attack on the Soviet Ukraine. World War II found Dyachenko a major in the Polish army. After that he served in the SD, and at the end of the war he was a regimental commander in the 1st Ukrainian Division, which, it may be recalled, was the former "Halychyna" SS Division.

The merger of the 31st SD Punitive Detachment with the division was a logical step confirming their kinship and the identity of the missions assigned to them by the SS Command.

So towards the end of the war the division had incorporated the most vicious, cruel murderers of the "Nachtigall" and "Roland" Battalions, the 207th Police Battalion, other police units, and the 31st Punitive SD Detachment. They carried out the orders of the SS Reichsfuehrer and remained loyal to their oath of allegiance to Hitler till Nazi Germany's total defeat.

## **Under SS Tutelage to the Last Day of the War**

In early May 1945, when there was no longer any doubt that the complete and unconditional surrender of the Nazi forces was only a matter of days, the SS Command decided to preserve the division personnel for a future fight against the Soviet Union and helped the division to surrender to the British forces. Among those directly involved in the scheme was the former Governor of the occupied District of Galicia, SS career officer Otto Waechter, who supervised the division to the very end.

It might seem illogical for the SS to pin their hopes on Britain for continued subversion against the Soviet Union. In 1941 Britain signed a treaty of alliance with the USSR on joint fight against Nazi Germany and on postwar cooperation. However, in violation of her commitments Britain played a double-faced game against her ally in the anti-fascist coalition and became one of the initiators of the cold war after 1945 as well as of setting up anti-Soviet military-political blocs.

The Catholic Church played a role of no small importance in deciding the division's future. Before the war broke out Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky sent to Rome Bishop Ivan Buchko who played a major part in setting up a large network of Uniate churches in Britain, the USA and Canada. The activities of these churches were closely intertwined with those of the OUN and other nationalist bodies forming part of the fascist "fifth columns" in those countries. Through Bishop Ivan

Buchko and other Catholic hierarchs the SS-men secured the support of the Vatican and Pope Pius XII. And it was thanks to the Vatican's mediation that an agreement was reached whereby the British would take the SS 1st Ukrainian Division under their wing and treat it well.

Surrender to the British was not the only issue discussed in the division shortly before Nazi Germany's collapse. Its commanders also considered the possibility of moving their unit across sparsely populated mountainous areas to the Ukraine so that it could wage an underground armed struggle on Soviet territory itself. The scheme coincided with the *Wehrwolf* plan and ruled out a speedy surrender to the armies of the anti-fascist coalition. But the scheme had to be abandoned. To begin with, the "Ukrainian Insurgent Army" and other sabotage and terrorist bands had already been left in the Western regions of the Ukraine and the Eastern areas of Poland. Secondly, the "Halychyna" SS Division as well as the police and punitive detachments, officials of the occupation administrative bodies and other Nazi henchmen incorporated into it had become too notorious because of the heinous crimes they had committed on Soviet territory.

So Himmler's department, which commanded the division to the last day of the war, found it more expedient to have it remain in the West. The decision had also been influenced by the encouraging results of the preliminary talks held by the Nazis with representatives of the Western Allies. The latter said they were prepared to treat the division as a unit of the Wehrmacht (the German armed forces) and to ignore its SS background.

The day Nazi Germany capitulated, May 8, 1945, the SS 1st Ukrainian Division also surrendered

to the Western Allies in Austria. The surrender was offered to the Allied Command by Konstantin Smovsky and Yuri Pundyk.

Konstantin Smovsky had been an officer in Petlyura's army. After fleeing the Ukraine in the 1920s he settled in Poland where he opened a small grocery shop. However, his main job was spying against the Soviet Union, which he did under the direction of Colonel N. Chebotaryov, an agent of the 2nd Department of the Polish General Staff. So Colonel Smovsky proved to be the most suitable person among the division's officers to negotiate a surrender: he knew how to drive a hard bargain, how to cheat, how to offer his services to a foreign intelligence service and to sell to it his former SS colleagues.

Yuri Pundyk accompanied Colonel Smovsky as an English interpreter. He also had a vested interest in the success of the mission since some of his relatives from Volyn Region, former servicemen of the 31st Punitive SD Detachment, were members of the division staff. After the war Yuri Pundyk became one of the OUN leaders in the USA. He called for the overthrow of the socialist system in the Ukraine and the restoration of capitalism which he prettified with the phrase of "people's capitalism".

The two men handed over to the Western Allied Command a memorandum which completely distorted the true nature of the division. Its text was carried in the newsletter *Visti* (No. 92, December 1958) of the Brotherhood of the Veterans of the 1st Ukrainian Division of the Ukrainian National Army (UNA). The newsletter was put out in the same building in Munich which houses the headquarters of the Foreign Branches of the Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists. The address is 67 Zeppelinstrasse.

The memorandum read in part: "The First Ukrainian Infantry Division constitutes the main force of the UNA. . .

"The UNA was formed partly of Ukrainians recruited in Galicia and partly of volunteers from German forced labour camps or POW camps.

"Although the Ukrainian National Army was part of the German armed forces, it had not been formed with a view to assisting Germany in her war effort.

"... The UNA organisers had in mind a future war between the democratic world and Soviet Russia.

"The formation of the UNA made it possible to withdraw a great number of Ukrainian soldiers from the Western Front.

"Most of UNA personnel are former inmates of forced labour camps working in the German war industry or prisoners of war. The formation of the UNA made it possible to save these people from starvation and suffering in those camps and to withdraw them from German industry."

It is not hard to see, of course, that the memorandum showed the formation and tasks of the division in a false light. Its authors hoped that the memorandum would fall into the hands of those who were hostile to the Soviet Union, and so they emphasised that the division had been formed to fight the Soviet Union both in the present war and in a future war which would be waged by what they called the "democratic world". There was some truth in that, of course, for when the SS Command sent the unit to the Anglo-American forces for surrender, this was just what they were hoping for.

So the SS-men began their direct contacts with representatives of the British and American for-

ces by deceiving the latter and by declaring their readiness to become their mercenaries.

It should be pointed out that despite the preliminary agreement the surrender on "special terms" did not go smoothly and Pope Pius XII had to step in once again and persuade the British forces to take the division under their wing.

## **The SS-Men Still Pose a Threat**

The Vatican's intervention and the patronage of the British intelligence services and military administration enabled the personnel of the 1st Ukrainian Division to escape punishment. The division was interned in Italy, and none of its officers or men was ever brought to account for their war crimes. Yet the British knew that the division was an SS unit and as such was nothing but a band of criminals.

In fact, the SS-men virtually enjoyed complete freedom and even the protection of the occupation authorities. They engaged in stealing and black-marketeering, and committed other actions injuring the honour and dignity of local Italian residents.

The camps that served as shelter for most of the SS-men for two years turned into an arena of bitter squabbles among various political factions. There were fierce clashes between members of Melnyk's and Bandera's branches of the Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists. It was only the surviving military structure and subordination that prevented the incensed adversaries from going to extremes.

The camps were flooded with vicious anti-Soviet

literature and periodicals sent by nationalist organisations. The division also put out its own newspapers *Zhittya u tabori* (Life in the Camp) and *Batktivshchina* (Fatherland). Both newssheets were aimed at whipping up feelings of revenge, reiterating the theme that another world war was "inevitable". The OUN centres resorted to every possible means, including illegal ones, to smuggle the "right" SS-men to Germany or Austria where they would be assigned secret missions. Many of the interned officers and men subsequently landed in the sabotage and spying schools run by British and American intelligence services.

The British undoubtedly knew what was going on in the camps. They were aware of the "mysterious" disappearances of some of the SS-men they were supposed to guard. Yet they did nothing to stop it.

Fearing that they might be put in the dock to account for their deeds, the SS-men tried to get permission to leave the camps and go to countries situated as far away as possible from the USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia where they had committed their crimes.

Formally, the division officers and men were released from the camps in 1949 only, but already in the spring of 1947 most of them were shipped to Britain to be used as a cheap labour force.

To this day former SS-men continue to set the tone in the Ukrainian national organisations in Britain. They make up a majority in the Association of Ukrainian Former Combatants (AUFC). Its current honorary president, Teodor Kudlik, is also a member of the Council of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB), the more extremist Banderite organisation in that country.

The Association's Secretary, Svyatomir Fostun,



had gone through an SS school in Trawniki of Lublin Region where several concentration camps were situated in Nazi times.

The Banderite Ukrainian Youth Association, which was headed by a former SS-man of the "Halychyna" Division, Yaroslav Deremenda, is a group member of the AUGB. In the early 1950s he repeatedly wrote to US and South Korean government agencies with offers to form a "Ukrainian legion" to fight "the Communists" in the Korean war. Deremenda intended to recruit "legionnaires" from among the members of his Association first and foremost, and not only in Britain but also in other countries since he was a member of the board of the World Ukrainian Youth Association at that time. At present Deremenda is a member of the Presidium of the AUGB and continues to rear mercenary killers and traitors in the UYA. Incidentally, the former chaplain of the "Halychyna" SS Division, M. Levenets, is in charge of religious instruction in that Association.

Another former serviceman of the division, Bogdan Pidgainy, owes his meteoric rise in the OUN hierarchy to his links with the British Intelligence Service. While still in an internment camp in Rimini, Italy, Pidgainy, alias Askold, took an active part in spying against the USSR. Later he became the right-hand man of the OUN ringleader S. Bandera in charge of espionage in Western Ukraine, Poland, Czechoslovakia and other countries conducted through the OUN-UIA underground network. Pidgainy left Italy for West Germany from which he moved to Canada. There he worked with the OUN until his death, carrying out delicate spying missions.

Another resident of Canada of Ukrainian origin is Bogdan Panchuk, a former Captain in the Ca-

nadian army. He currently lives in Montreal. Panchuk began officially to work for the British Intelligence service in 1943. During his stay in Britain he became one of the founders of the Association of Ukrainians there and was its president in 1948. Together with Deremenda, Panchuk drew up plans to form a "Ukrainian legion" on the pattern of the "Halychyna" SS Division for the fight against Communists. Panchuk likes to brag about the services he has rendered to the SS-men from that division. In particular, he is fond of pointing out that, together with the Ukrainian Canadian Committee and emigre clergymen, he was one of the most active members of the drive to get permission for former SS officers and men from the division to come to Canada. However, he prefers not to talk about how many of them he has recruited for British Intelligence and for what purpose he found jobs for a former SS-woman, Mariya Krushelnitskaya, and other British agents at the Canadian Embassy in Rome and other places vital for intelligence gathering.

We have named just a few former servicemen of the "Halychyna" SS Division. But there are thousands of them living in Western Europe, North and South America and Australia.

## **Servicemen of the "Halychyna" SS Division Are War Criminals**

World War II ended in Europe with Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender in May 1945. The Soviet Armed Forces, together with the armies of the other members of the anti-Hitler co-

alition saved the nations of Europe from extermination and restored to them the right to life.

Besides a plan of attack on the Soviet Union codenamed "Barbarossa", the Nazi leaders also drew up schemes for plundering the wealth of the occupied countries, the enslavement or extermination of entire nations in Europe as vital stages in their drive for world domination.

For instance, master plan "Ost" provided for a series of measures to Germanise and colonise East European countries. Forty-five to fifty-one million people were to be evicted from these countries, and a considerable part of the population in the USSR, Poland, and Czechoslovakia was to be exterminated. The "Halychyna" SS Division and the 31st Punitive SD Detachment (or the Ukrainian Self-Defence Legion) later incorporated into it had displayed extraordinary zeal in executing this horrendous crime against humanity.

The following statement by Hitler was quoted at the Nuremberg trial of the major Nazi war criminals: "We must develop a technique of depopulation. If you ask me what I mean by depopulation, I will tell you that I mean the removal of entire racial units. And this is what I intend to carry out, that, roughly speaking, is my task." Both the "Halychyna" SS Division and the 31st Punitive SD Detachment described their punitive expeditions against civilians in the occupied areas as "pacification" and operations to clear them of hostile elements. In their reports on such operations division staff officers usually said that the villages "have been burned down, pacified and depopulated". What this meant was that thousands of civilians were hanged, tortured to death, burned alive or shot and killed. Among them were hun-

dreds of children knifed or drowned in wells. That was how both the division and the detachment translated into reality Hitler's "depopulation technique".

Implementation of the master plan "Ost" and other measures to establish the "new order" was inseparably linked with the massacre of Jews in Europe. The leaders of Nazi Germany on January 20, 1942 gave their official blessing to the genocide which by that time had become routine practice with the armed forces, SS, SD, police and other services of the Hitler extermination machine. The Nazis killed 6 million Jews all in all. And their blood is also on the hands of the SS-men from Himmler's "Halychyna" Division.

The Nazi army and SS forces not only treated prisoners of war with extreme brutality; they subjected POWs to what was known as "extermination by labour" or shot them or starved them to death. And as SS and SD units both the division and the 31st Punitive SD Detachment which was part of it were directly involved in the shootings of Soviet and Polish POWs. And therefore they are guilty of heinous war crimes.

When World War II was still in progress, the major powers of the anti-fascist coalition, the USSR, Britain and the United States, agreed that it was necessary to uproot German militarism and Nazism and to punish war criminals. In 1942 the Soviet Union proposed that the ringleaders of Nazi Germany should be put on trial by a special international tribunal.

The Declaration on the Responsibility of the Hitlerites for Atrocities Committed signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin and Winston Churchill was published on October 30, 1943. On

behalf of their countries they declared that the organisers and perpetrators of massacres, executions and other atrocities "will be sent back to the countries in which their abominable deeds were done in order that they may be judged and punished according to the laws of these liberated countries". The Declaration did not define the principles of the trial itself or the form of punishment to be meted out to the war criminals. Final agreement on these issues was reached only after Nazi Germany's defeat. As for the Soviet Union, it consistently upheld its proposal on setting up a special international tribunal to try the Nazi criminals.

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet decreed the setting up of an Extraordinary State Commission to investigate crimes committed by the German Nazi invaders and their collaborators and to assess the damage they had inflicted on individuals, on co-operative farms, public organizations, state enterprises and offices. The Commission began its work in March 1943. It directed the investigations of the respective bodies in the Union Republics, regions and territories. The Commission examined 54,000 reports on Nazi crimes and over 25,000 records of evidence, testimonies and eyewitness accounts.

The first trial of war criminals was held in the city of Kharkov in the Ukraine on December 15, 1943. In the dock were three Nazis and one traitor who had committed their crimes in and around that city during the Nazi occupation. They got their deserts. The Kharkov trial showed the world that those guilty of war crimes must be punished.

The International Military Tribunal for the trial of major war criminals was set up in London on August 8, 1945 in accordance with an agreement

reached by the USSR, the United States, Britain and France. The city of Nuremberg in Germany was chosen as the venue of the trial.

The Charter of the Tribunal and its decisions contain a number of important provisions indicating the criminal nature of the SS forces and their formations such as the "Halychyna" SS Division. The Charter also defined war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In accordance with this Charter the "Halychyna" SS Division and each of its units must be held responsible for war crimes. They were guilty of massacres, the maltreatment of civilians and driving them into forced labour camps, the slaughter of POWs, the senseless destruction of cities and villages, and the plunder of public and private property. The division was also guilty of crimes against humanity, that is, of extermination and torture of civilians and other inhuman acts against them.

The Nuremberg trial of the major war criminals from the axis countries in Europe was held between November 20, 1945 and October 1, 1946. Among other things, the International Military Tribunal described as criminal a number of the Hitler regime's organisations. Those included the SS guard units and the SD security service. Membership in them was defined as a crime. Consequently, to belong to the SS forces, be it *Waffen SS*, the *Totenkopfverbaende* ("The Skull and Crossbones Units") or any other SS formations was a criminal deed in itself.

The first SS divisions were "Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler", "Das Reich", "Totenkopf" ("Skull and Crossbones"), and the Grenadier Police Division. Among the foreign SS divisions formed by the Na-

zis during the war was the 14th "Halychyna" Volunteer Infantry SS Division.

At a time when the Nazis were desperately short of manpower they used the division for a variety of purposes; for instance, on several occasions it acted as an emergency stopgap on the Eastern front. However, that was not its main job. Just like *Totenkopfverbaende* it mounted guard duties at concentration camps and took part in shootings, counterguerrilla expeditions and "pacification" campaigns against civilians and in clearing areas behind German lines of "hostile elements".

Thus, it is clear that the division's officers and men, besides being members of a criminal SS formation, also committed many other crimes. And the governments of the USA, Britain and France, in accordance with their commitments, should long ago have extradited SS-men found on their territory to the countries "in which their abominable deeds were done in order that they may be judged and punished".

## **A Resolute "No" to the Nationalist Agents Provocateurs**

In violation of international law and of their commitments, the governments of the USA, Canada, Britain and other Western countries granted citizenship to former SS-men. With the aid of legal chicanery war criminals were turned into displaced persons, refugees or political emigres.

SS-men and members of other counter-revolutionary military units form numerous "veteran"

and "combatant" organisations in most of the countries where Ukrainian nationalist emigres reside. The Brotherhood of Veterans of the 1st Ukrainian Division of the Ukrainian National Army set up in the USA directs the activities of its branches and representations in Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, France, and Britain.

The Ukrainian Cossack Brotherhood in the United States, which co-operates with the Brotherhood of Veterans of the 1st Ukrainian Division, also has its branch offices in Canada, Britain, Federal Germany, Venezuela and Australia. Pavel Shandruk, mentioned earlier, was for a long time honorary president of the Brotherhood.

There are so many "veteran", "combatant" and other organisations directed from the USA that it is impossible to name all of them in a booklet of this size. The USA is one of the countries with the largest concentration of anti-Soviet groups. It is the Ukrainian nationalists in the USA who are claiming the role of sole spokesman for Ukrainian settlers in the countries of their residence. However, the Ukrainian communities in these countries are well aware of the record of Ukrainian nationalism which is one long chain of killings and other crimes and services to foreign armies and intelligence agencies.

A member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Dmitry Manuisky, a Soviet party and government leader and a prominent figure in the world Communist and working class movement, aptly characterised Ukrainian nationalism and its adherents as far back as January 1945.

"...Ukrainian bourgeois nationalism," he said, "has always been a servant of foreign masters. Ukrainian nationalism has never been national. It



has always served the interests of foreign ruling classes. It has never been independent because it has always relied on foreign military power and never on the support of its own people.

"...The Ukrainian nationalists, completely cut off from their own people, have gradually degenerated into a treacherous band of spies, saboteurs, and criminal terrorists with utter disregard of justice, ethics and law."

The record of the "Halychyna" SS Division confirms this assessment, which remains as timely as ever today.

At present, too, the reactionary circles in a number of Western capitalist countries are using Ukrainian nationalists for carrying out the most unseemly subversive activities against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. They use nationalists as mouthpieces to call for the unleashing of another world war, a nuclear war. The ring-leader of the OUN foreign branches, former Nazi collaborator, Yaroslav Stetsko, would readily agree (in his own words) "to having two thirds of Ukrainian territory blasted by an atomic bomb" if only he could install himself in power in the remaining one third. "Let the whole of Communist Ukraine perish; new people will come from Toronto and London..." says Yaroslav Stetsko.

What kind of people these "newcomers" are can be seen from the OUN newspaper coming out in Toronto, *Homin Ukrainy*, (Echo of the Ukraine). The newspaper, expressing its hopes that a third world war would break out, stated in 1977 that "if half of mankind or even more should perish in this war, in our view, it would not be too big a price for winning freedom..."

Well, there should be no place for such maniacs among civilised people.

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